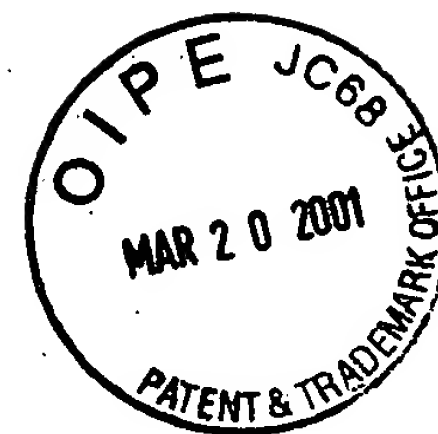


ATTACHMENT B

Marked Up Replacement Claims



Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim.

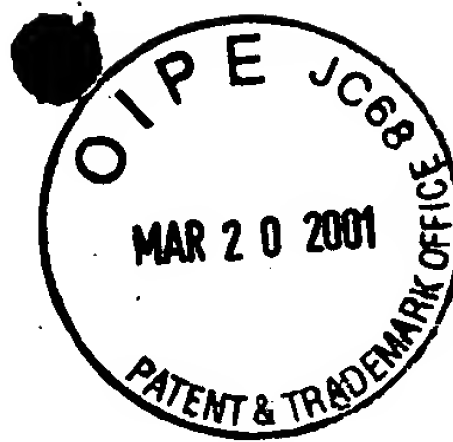
1. (Thrice Amended) A carbon material ~~characterized in that~~ wherein edge parts of a core carbon material are partially or entirely coated with a coat-forming carbon material and ~~that~~ wherein the carbon material is nearly spherical or ellipsoidal, ~~wherein the carbon material has~~ having a specific surface area determined by a BET method of $5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or less and a covering ratio c defined as a weight ratio of coat-forming carbon material/(core carbon material + coat-forming carbon material) of $0 < c \leq 0.3$.

27. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing the coated carbon material of claim ~~23~~ 1, wherein a surface of the coated carbon material is pretreated for oxidation before calcination of the coated carbon material.

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ATTACHMENT A

Clean Replacement/New Claims



Following herewith is a clean copy of each claim which replaces each previous claim having the same number; and each new claim.

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1. (Thrice Amended) A carbon material wherein edge parts of a core carbon material are partially or entirely coated with a coat-forming carbon material and wherein the carbon material is nearly spherical or ellipsoidal, the carbon material having a specific surface area determined by a BET method of 5 m²/g or less and a covering ratio c defined as a weight ratio of coat-forming carbon material/(core carbon material + coat-forming carbon material) of 0 < c ≤ 0.3.

27. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing the coated carbon material of claim 1, wherein a surface of the coated carbon material is pretreated for oxidation before calcination of the coated carbon material.

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41. (New) A method for producing a coated carbon material comprising calcining for carbonization at a heating rate of up to 10°C/hr a carbon material wherein edge parts of a core carbon material are partially or entirely coated with the coat-forming carbon material and wherein the carbon material is nearly spherical or ellipsoidal, the carbon material having a specific surface area determined by a BET method of 5m²/g or less.

42. (New) A method for producing a coated carbon material comprising calcining for carbonization in vacuo a carbon material wherein edge parts of a core carbon material are partially or entirely coated with the coat-forming carbon material and wherein the carbon material is nearly spherical or ellipsoidal, the carbon material having a specific surface area determined by a BET method of $5\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ or less.

43. (New) A method for producing a coated carbon material comprising calcining for graphitization a carbon material wherein edge parts of a core carbon material are partially or entirely coated with the coat-forming carbon material and wherein the carbon material is nearly spherical or ellipsoidal, the carbon material having a specific surface area determined by a BET method of $5\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ or less.

Claims 24-26 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, by this Amendment, claims 24-26 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 41-43, respectively, which have been drafted in independent form to include the limitations of original claim 1.

Claims 27 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, but were not subject to any prior art rejections. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 40 and has also been amended to correct the indefiniteness problem relating to claim 40. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 is allowable. Claim 27 has been amended to change its dependency to claim 1. Therefore, claim 27 as well as the remaining claims which depend from claim 1 are believed to be allowable.

Moreover, in view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102 and 103 have been obviated and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for immediate allowance.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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